CITY OF MILPITAS SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC) MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES April 24, 2014

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Commissioners present: Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Hardin, Mateo, Serpa. Alternate Commissioner present: Chang, T. Alternate Commissioner absent: Chang, P.

Council Liaison Carmen Montano: Absent

Attending on behalf of the Council Liaison: Mayor Esteves

MHS Student Liaison Brenda Su: Present MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa: Absent

Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present

II. Alternates Seating of

Alternate Commissioner T. Chang was seated.

III. Allegiance Pledge of

Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes

MOTION to approve the minutes of February 27, 201.

Approval of M / S: Arefi / Arbaugh

Ayes: All

V. Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda of March 27, 2014.

M / S: Serpa / Arefi

Ayes: All

VI. **Announcements:** Staff noted that the Commissioners' Lunch is Sat., April 26 from 11:30-1:30 in the Milpitas Community Center Auditorium.

VII. Public Forum: None.

VIII. New Business

1. International BBQ & Festival, May 31 – June 1

Staff reviewed this event as a possible outreach opportunity. The display table would be similar to the Family Day layout. Discussion followed regarding possible coverage of the event. There was limited time available for participation on both days. Staff will review the coverage and report back at the May 22 meeting.

IX. Old Business

Commissioner Chen reviewed developments and the questioned accuracy of the City's translation of the press conference reported by *Seongnam Vision*. He noted that a response from Seongnam was received stating that the intent was to present the possibility of installing a Comfort Woman monument as only one possibility of

2. Sister City Request: Seongnam City, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea

multiple methods of cultural exchange. Since this action was highlighted by Seongnam's mayor it appears to be a major component of the city's vision for a sister city relationship. The SCC needs to consider if this vision is compatible with Milpitas. Commission Chen noted that, based on previous discussion, this is not to be part of a sister cities exchange in Milpitas' view.

Chair Grilli reviewed the minutes from the April 24 meeting noting that the SCC asked several questions for which answers were not provided. The only answers provided were that the City's translation was a mistranslation and the commission that was referred to was a Seongnam commission and not the SCC. Since there are questions that haven't been answered the SCC is not in a position to move forward. When the answers are provided, the SCC can evaluate these and reopen the discussion. Commissioner Chen noted that the most controversial statement regarding the confusion over the Seongnam commission and the SCC was answered. Chair Grilli stated that his concern remains with the concept of a peace park and Comfort Woman monument seems to be a significant part of Seongnam's purpose for a relationship with Milpitas. If this is the case, the SCC needs to know how significant this is for Seongnam. Commissioner Arefi noted that none of the current MOUs and bylaws mention political activities or projects. This is a totally political issue that the SCC doesn't want to involve the City in it. We need to determine what is Seongnam's intention and from there determine if we want to establish a relationship on that basis or not.

Commissioner Arbaugh proposed a possible motion that the SCC would not propose a relationship to Council that would recommend installation of any type of monument for a sister city. Discussion followed regarding forming the basis of a motion.

Mr. Jae Kuk Wi stated that the monument is the personal desire of Seongnam's mayor and not included in the projects recommended by Seongnam City for a proposed relationship. Mr. Wi stated that he recently visited Seongnam and discussed the possible relationship with the mayor, who agreed a Comfort Woman statue is not a part of Seongnam's proposal. This issue is just the mayor's personal desire and he understands that this type of statue is not accepted in Milpitas.

Discussion followed: This issue was made public with a clear statement made; how can Milpitas be assured by the mayor of Seongnam that this is not an issue? The concern was expressed how not to be mired in this controversy; how to be assured, should a recommend be made to open this sister city relationship, that this issue will not resurface? The City of Milpitas needs to receive correspondence from the mayor

of Seongnam assuring that this controversy is not an issue, and will not be brought up again, under the auspices of a sister city relationship.

Mr. Wi responded that the Seongnam mayor will resign at the end of the month to be considered for reelection and reiterated that the comfort woman statue is not from Seongnam City, but is the mayor's personal idea. He noted that many people in Seongnam are interested in the relationship and it links to IT businesses in Milpitas. This, and making friendships and fostering student education, are the main purposes.

Mr. Wi stated that the upcoming election may be held next month, however there is rumor that the June election may be postponed due to the ferry accident in South Korea. Further, the concern of a monument on public property is not an issue if private property is purchased for its use.

Vice Chair Serpa proposed that the SCC wait until after the mayoral election in Seongnam to make a decision on a recommendation. She further suggested that whomever becomes the mayor that that person place in writing whether or not there is the intent of placing a Comfort Woman statue in Milpitas as part of a proposed relationship.

MOTION: Due to the fact that Seongnam's mayoral elections will occur June or later this year, the SCC will defer further discussion and postpone making a decision on a recommendation for a sister city relationship until after the election is held.

M / S: Serpa / Arbaugh Ayes: All

Commissioner Chen stated that after the election the SCC should send a letter with a clear understanding that controversial statues are not to be an element of a possible sister city relationship and ask how Seongnam would like to proceed given this position on the part of Milpitas.

3. FY 2014-15 Work Plan & Mission Statement Discussion

Staff will present a proposed timeline at the May 22 meeting and requested that the SCC discuss a possible mission statement, a recommendation brought up by the Council Liaison at a previous meeting. The work plan would span the fiscal year and would be presented to the Council on August 19. Staff distributed a copy of the bylaws and reviewed prior discussions about the Purpose Statement and possible Mission Statement. Chair Grilli noted that the Purpose Statement is direct and succinct; unless there is something that a Mission Statement would add to it he doesn't believe it's needed. Vice Chair Serpa stated she has a mission statement that would only state the purpose of the SCC differently: The mission of the SCC is a commitment to fostering an exchange of art, commerce, culture, education and economic development in the many diverse areas between the people and governments of Milpitas and its sister cities. Chair Grilli noted that the MOUs include similar statements. He stated the Purpose Statement first states the SCC is an

advisory body and this would be the mission as well. Discussion followed regarding the need of a mission statement.

MOTION: To leave the bylaws as currently written and not include a mission statement.

M/S: Arefi/Arbaugh Ayes: Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Hardin, Mateo. No: Serpa

4. Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses

Staff presented the latest expense listing noting that the SCC is over its spending limit by \$744.25. She noted that expenses for two advertising placements in the high school paper and the BBQ booth space will be added.

5. SCI International Conference 2014, July 31 – August 2

Staff noted that the Student Liaison will attend. The Youth Leadership has a specific track of seminars, but will have a choice of one of three off-site tours along with the adults. Signup for these isn't set yet, but we will be notified in email. Regarding participation of one Economic Development Commissioner, the SCC discussed offering attendance of one EDC member to be paid from the spending amount available after July 1.

MOTION: Offer attendance of one EDC member to be paid from the spending amount available after July 1.

M / S: Arbaugh / Serpa Ayes: All

6. E-Pal Project with Sister Cities

Chair Grilli noted that the SCC fulfilled its end of the coordination with Figline Valdarno: high school students have connected and written letters were mailed to the 6th Grade teacher contact.

7. Home-stays for Dagupan and Huizhou Students, October 2014

Spirit Week is set for October 6 – 10, which sets the home stay for Saturday, October 4 – Sunday, October 12, 2014. Staff reported on an email she sent to an assistant principal for presentation at the PTSA executive board meeting. This item was discussed by the Board that stated they are please to assist, but concerned that they will be able to find 20 families to host the students by June 20. Also, both Dagupan and Huizhou have been informed of the June 20 deadline and that the student visits will be canceled if not enough home stays are secured. Ideas under review with the high school: mailing flyers to MHS homes, sending an email to parents, posting flyers at the high school and distributing to select teachers, placing a message on the school's marquee, and a video message on MCTV26.

8. Tsukuba City, Japan

Staff distributed a thank you letter from Mayor Ichihara for the City's support of its placement of a mega sports complex as a venue for the Paralympics in 2020.

Commissioner Arbaugh inquired about application submission for appointment of a Student Liaison after Brenda Su graduates high school. Staff reviewed the process and advised that the student download the application on the City's website, complete the form with a parent signature. It then needs to be turned into the City Clerk's Office. Commissioner Arbaugh stated he would facilitate this.

9. Dagupan City, Philippines

Staff stated that Mayor Esteves and Dagupan City Administrator Farah Decano on April 8. Items discussed were the MOU and new topics and exchanges to add for a recommended extension such as economic development, e-pal project, photo sharing for exhibits. Also, Mayor Fernandez has a strong desire to expand the number of Dagupan students visiting Milpitas each year. Staff proposed a new format and version similar to the MOU with Huizhou with descriptions that apply to the Milpitas-Dagupan relationship. Discussion followed regarding the review process.

MOTION: To approve the draft MOU as written.

M / S: Arbaugh / Chen Ayes: All

Staff stated she will forward the approved draft MOU to Dagupan with a request to respond before the May 22 or June 26 SCC meetings. She noted the fortunate timing of Spirit Week coinciding with a Council meeting on October 7, 2014. This will be the ideal date for a signing ceremony and brief reception.

10. Huizhou Municipality, China

Chair Grilli noted that Huizhou is researching economic development activities with Milpitas and is prepared to send 10 students in October, pending home stay availability.

11. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Vice Chair Serpa reviewed current contact with this city noting that the information has not changed since last month's report. A new city, Figline-Incisa is being formed, and a new mayor will be elected. However, Italy's elections have been postponed because of changes in the government structure that eliminate the provincial government and merges cities. Staff noted that since this MOU expires May 8, 2014, the city will drop from the agenda, but can be placed on the Future Agenda Items list. Staff will update Council of this change via its weekly report.

X. **City Council Liaison Report:** Mayor Esteves provided the following announcements and encouraged questions:

- City annual budget and the Capital Improvement Projects budget are being formed; ideas for planning your expenses for the next fiscal year should be submitted to the Staff Liaison
- City will not have to reduce services and roads can be kept at a high index of good pavement condition
- Voluntary water conservation is critical and set at 20%

- A new mobile ap is available to advise the City of needed repairs of services
- Progressive work with Newby Island Landfill to curb odor issues
- The San Jose Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant will be rebuilt to also help with odor reduction.

XI. School District Liaison Report - None

XII. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:

- 1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
- 2. Figline-Incisa, Italy
- 3. Seongnam City Research & Discussion
- 4. August 28, 2014 Meeting
- 5. Fundraising Workshop

XIII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of March 27, 2014.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of April 24, 2014 to the next regularly scheduled meeting of May 22, 2014.

M/S: Serpa/Argaugh Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe Staff Liaison